AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A contents management apparatus that manages contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user, comprising:

a contents request acquiring unit that acquires contents request information from the user;

an education curriculum determining unit that receives the contents request from the acquiring unit and determines an education curriculum based on the information in the contents request;

a contents element extracting unit that extracts the contents elements based on the education curriculum and the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user; and

a contents restructuring unit that restructures new contents from the contents elements extracted, where in forming the new contents, the contents restructuring unit selectively removes content elements previously viewed by the user.

2. – 3. (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously presented)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with contents relevant information that is related to the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the contents relevant information.

5.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with a genre of the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the genres.

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6.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with a level of importance of the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the level of importance.

7.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with a popularity of the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents element based on the popularity.

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Previously presented)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a user information acquiring unit that acquires user identification information for identifying the user to be provided with the contents, wherein

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on user relevant information that is related to the user identification information acquired.

10.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on a learning level of the user corresponding to the user identification information.

11.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with an updating date of the contents elements, and

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the contents element extracting unit extracts, based on the contents elements and a providing date recorded in the user identification information as previously provided, the contents elements corresponding to the updating date after the providing date.

12.   (Cancelled).

13.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a contents providing unit that provides the contents to the user;

an evaluation acquiring unit that acquires an evaluation of the contents elements included in the contents provided from the user who used the contents; and

an updating unit that updates contents element relevant information that is related with the contents elements based on the evaluations acquired.

14.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a user information storage unit that stores the user identification information and the user relevant information corresponding to each other.

15.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with an updating date of the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the updating date.

16.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with a creating date of the contents elements, and

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the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the creating

date.

17.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

        the contents elements include at least one of moving image data and sound data,

        the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with a playing time of the contents elements, and

        the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the playing time and a total playing time of the contents to be restructured.

18.   (Previously presented)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a specification acquiring unit that acquires specification information representing contents elements to be included in the contents that are restructured by the contents restructuring unit from the user, wherein

        the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements specified by the specification information acquired.

19.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents restructuring unit restructures the contents elements based on a predetermined structuring order.

20.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the contents elements represent contents related to learning and when the contents elements are corresponding to a level of the learning, the contents restructuring unit restructures the contents elements based on the level of the learning.

21.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a similarity determining unit that determines similarity between the contents elements to be restructured by the contents restructuring unit, wherein

upon the similarity determining unit determining that two predetermined contents elements are similar, the contents restructuring unit includes only one of the two contents elements in the new contents.

22.   (Original)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an accounting unit that collects billing information when the contents elements included in the new contents are related with the billing information.

23.   (Previously presented)   The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the contents include lecture contents information having at least one of moving image data, sound data, and still image data, and meta contents description information related to the contents elements, and

the meta contents description information includes lecture relevant information about a lecture and inter-contents-information representing a relation between the contents elements.

24.   (Currently amended)   A contents management system comprising;

a contents management apparatus that manages contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user; and

a contents providing apparatus that provides the contents to the user, wherein the contents providing apparatus includes

a contents request acquiring unit that acquires contents request information from the user;

an education curriculum determining unit that receives the contents request from the acquiring unit and determines an education curriculum based on the information in the contents request;

a contents element extracting unit that extracts the contents elements based on the education curriculum and the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user;

a contents restructuring unit that restructures new contents from the contents elements extracted, where in forming the new contents, the contents restructuring unit selectively removes content elements previously viewed by the user; and

a contents providing unit that provides the new contents to the user,

the contents management apparatus includes a contents storage unit that stores a plurality of contents from which the contents element extracting unit of the contents providing apparatus extracts the contents elements, and

the contents management apparatus and the contents providing apparatus communicate with each other via a network.

25.   (Original)   The contents management system according to claim 24, wherein

the contents providing apparatus further includes a user information storage unit that stores user relevant information about the user to whom the contents are provided, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the user relevant information stored in the user information storage unit.

26.   (Currently amended) A contents management system comprising:

a contents management apparatus that manages contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user; and

a contents providing apparatus that provides the contents to the user, wherein the contents management apparatus includes

a contents request acquiring unit that acquires contents request information from the user;

an education curriculum determining unit that receives the contents request from the acquiring unit and determines an education curriculum based on the information in the contents request;

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a contents element extracting unit that extracts the contents elements based on the education curriculum and the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user;

a contents restructuring unit that restructures new contents from the contents elements extracted, where in forming the new contents, the contents restructuring unit selectively removes at least one content element previously viewed by the user; and

a contents providing unit that provides the new contents to the user,

the contents providing apparatus includes an output unit that outputs the contents acquired from the contents providing apparatus via a network; and

a user information storage unit that stores user relevant information about the user to whom the contents are provided,

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the user relevant information stored in the user information storage unit and

the contents element extracting unit of the contents management apparatus extracts the contents elements determined based on the user relevant information stored in the user information storage unit.

27.   (Currently amended) A method of managing contents including a plurality of contents elements, representing information to be provided to a user, comprising:

acquiring contents request information from the user;

determining an education curriculum based on the information in the contents request;

extracting the contents elements based on the education curriculum and the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user; and

restructuring new contents from the contents elements extracted; and

selectively removing content elements previously viewed by the user.

28.   (Cancelled)

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29.   (Currently amended) A computer readable recording medium that stores a computer
program that realizes a method of managing contents including a plurality of contents elements
representing information to be provided to a user on a computer, and a plurality of contents to which
the computer program refers, wherein the computer program makes the computer execute:

acquiring contents request information from the user;

determining an education curriculum based on the information in the contents request;

extracting the contents elements based on the education curriculum and the contents request
information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from
the user; and

restructuring new contents from the contents elements extracted; and

selectively removing content elements previously viewed by the user.

30.   (Cancelled).

31.   (Previously presented)   A contents management apparatus that manages contents
including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user,
comprising:

a contents request acquiring unit that acquires contents request information from the user;

a contents element extracting unit that extracts the contents elements based on the contents
request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request
information from the user;

a contents restructuring unit that restructures new contents from the contents elements
extracted;

a contents storage unit that stores the contents,

wherein the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements from the contents
stored in the contents storage unit,

the contents elements include information on lecturers,

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in association with popularity of the
lecturers, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the popularity.

32.   (New) The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the education curriculum determining unit determines, based on the contents request information, necessary learning items from a contents database storing the education curriculum including a plurality of learning items having a hierarchy structure, each learning item being associated with at least one of the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements associated with the necessary learning items.